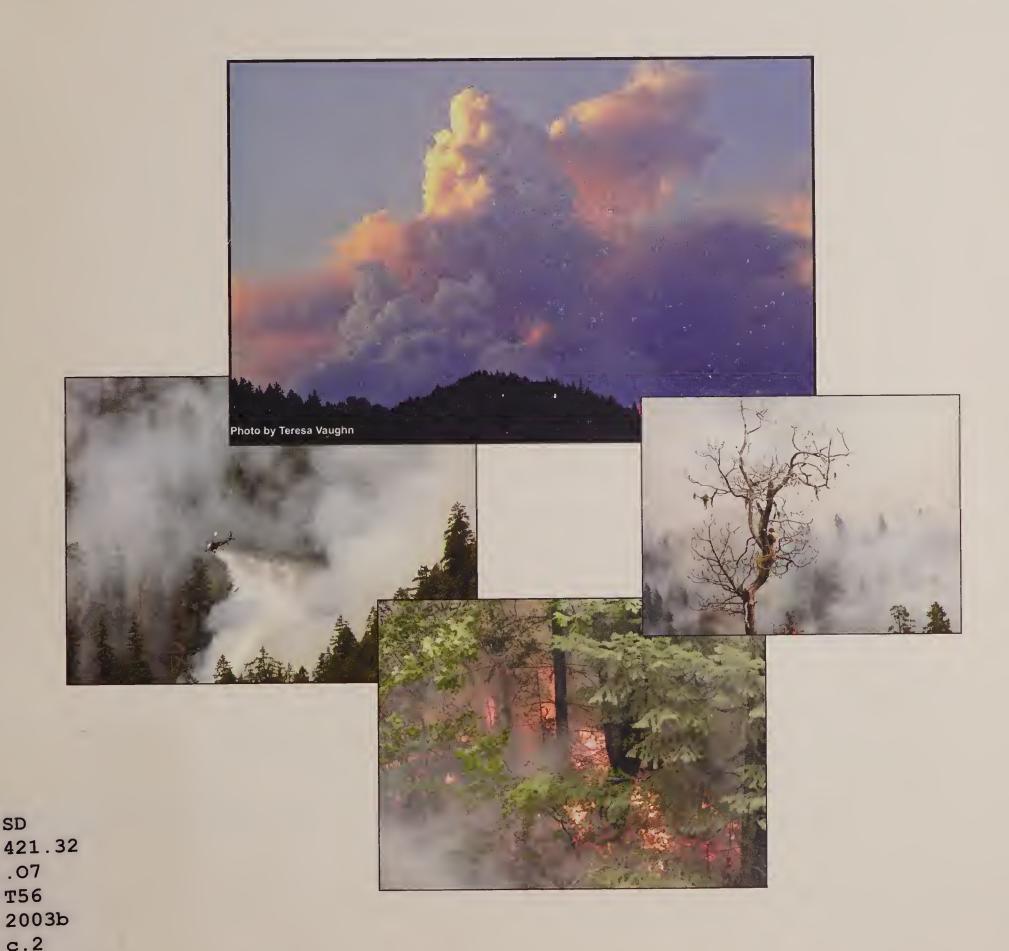


Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
Butte Falls Resource Area

December 2003



Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement Executive Summary



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

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Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration 200 Final Environmental Impact Statement

Executive Summary

December 2003

Prepared by:

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Medford District Office Butte Falls Resource Area

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Butte Falls Field Manager

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Medford District Manager

Executive Summary



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE 3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon 97504 email address: or110mb@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1614(OR115) Timbered Rock/Elk Ck. FEIS Review B53165(JW:tp)

DEC 2 2003

Dear Reader:

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration is available for review. Based on public comments received and internal review of the Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Draft EIS (published August 15, 2003), changes, corrections and clarification were made in the FEIS.

This plan analyzes six action alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, and a No Action Alternative. The alternatives address salvage opportunities and restoration projects designed to bring future resource conditions closer to those objectives identified in the Medford District Resource Management Plan, Northwest Forest Plan, Elk Creek Watershed Analysis, and the South Cascades Late-Successional Reserve Assessment. Two types of salvage - area and roadside - are discussed in Alternatives C through G. Alternatives A and B propose no salvage. Alternatives C, D and G were designed using specific guidance related to post-fire salvage and/or Late-Successional Reserve guidelines. Restoration projects are proposed in the action alternatives, Alternatives B through G. Alternative A (No Action) has no restoration projects proposed, but the rehabilitation and stabilization projects proposed in the Timbered Rock Fire Emergency Stabilization Rehabilitation Plan (ESRP) would be implemented.

The preferred alternative, Alternative G, includes two research proposals; 1) to evaluate mixed-species reforestation plantings to identify and characterize temporal patterns of vegetation, structural development and species diversity; to assess temporal dynamics of fuel loading and fire risk; and to determine impacts of snag retention on survival and growth of planted and naturally regenerated trees; 2) to evaluate various snag retention levels on wildlife species (birds and small mammals). Roadside salvage is designed to reduce existing or potential public safety concerns while recovering economic value.

Release of this FEIS initiates a 30-day availability period after which the Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared and published. Any comments received, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Medford District Office; 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

We want to acknowledge and thank those who took advantage of the public review period to provide comments on the Draft EIS. We recognize and appreciate the planning team's dedication and hard work.

Sincerely,

Timothy B. Reuwsaat Medford District Manager

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Executive Summary

Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement

- 1. Responsible Agency: United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- **2.** Draft () Final (**X**)
- 3. Administrative Action (X) Legislative Action ()
- 4. Abstract: The Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) considers seven alternatives to analyze possible salvage opportunities resulting from the Timbered Rock Fire and proposed restoration projects designed to move resource conditions closer to the desired future conditions identified in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP), Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), Elk Creek Watershed Analysis (WA), and South Cascades Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA). In 1994, the NFP designated the Federal lands (85,424 acres) within the Elk Creek Watershed as Late-Successional Reserve (LSR). The Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 23,866 acres within the Elk Creek LSR.

A catastrophic fire occurred within the Elk Creek Watershed in 2003. The Timbered Rock Fire burned with varying degrees of intensity across 27,000 acres of mixed Federal, private, and commercial forest lands. About 12,000 acres of BLM-administered land, primarily within the Elk Creek LSR were burned. Due to the Timbered Rock Fire, the BLM proposed to take two actions: implementation of restoration projects within the Elk Creek Watershed and economic recovery of fire-killed trees (salvage).

Two types of salvage, area and roadside, are discussed in Alternatives C through G. Alternatives A (No Action) and B propose no salvage. Alternatives C through G were designed using specific guidance relating to post-fire salvage and/or Late-Successional Reserve guidelines. Included in Alternative G is research to study the effects of various snag retention levels on birds and mammals, and various reforestation in vegetation control treatments. Research could occur in any alternative.

Four levels of restoration projects are proposed in the six action alternatives (B-G): focused, moderate, extensive, and focused within the fire perimeter only. Restoration varies by the scope of the projects, intensity of the treatments, and location of the treatments. Restoration projects are located within the Timbered Rock Fire perimeter and outside the fire perimeter. Most projects are located within the Elk Creek Watershed.

Alternative G is the BLM Preferred Alternative.

- 5. The 30-day availability period for the Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.
- 6. For further information, contact:

Jean Williams, Co-Team Lead John Bergin, Co-Team Lead Bureau of Land Management Medford District Office 3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon 97504

Telephone: (541) 840-9989 or (541) 944-6620

User's Guide

The Timbered Rock Fire Salvage and Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is divided into six sections: Summary, Chapter 1 (Introduction), Chapter 2 (Alternatives), Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences), Chapter 4 (Consultation and Coordination), and Appendices. The following is an overview of these sections to assist in the review of the document and in understanding the planning process.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 provides the introduction to the plan. It defines the purpose (objectives) and need for the plan and provides a description of the planning area. The issues or concerns identified through scoping and the planning process are included. Also included is an explanation of the relationship of this plan to existing laws, regulations, policies, and other plans.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 describes the range of alternatives, including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and the BLM's Preferred Alternative (Alternative G). The seven alternatives propose a variety of management actions in order to address the plan objectives and the underlying need for this planning effort.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 combines the affected environment and the environmental consequences into one chapter. The affected environment includes the pre- and post-fire conditions for the physical, biological, social, and economic resources in the planning area. The resources that would be affected by or would affect the proposed management actions are emphasized. Chapter 3 also analyzes the environmental consequences of implementing each alternative as compared to the existing conditions.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 identifies the specialists and supporting technical specialists involved in the preparation of this plan. A summary of the public involvement process and a list of the agencies, organizations, and individuals who were consulted in the DEIS process are included.

Chapter 5

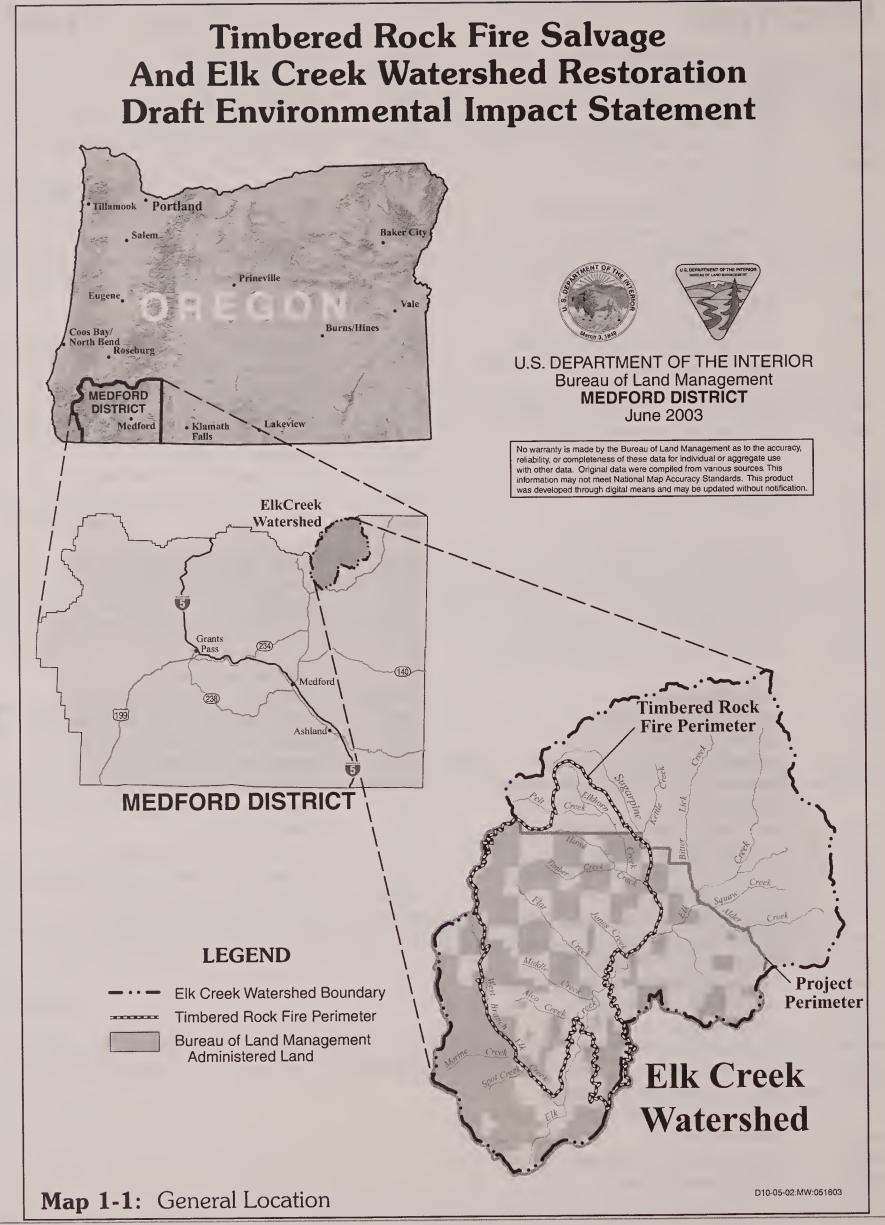
Chapter 5 contains reproductions of the comment letters received on the DEIS during the 60-day comment period. Substantive comments from those letters and the BLM responses to those comments are also included.

Maps

A folded map of the Preferred Alternative, Alternative G, is included with this FEIS, At the back of the document are attached four z-fold maps. Maps charts, and tables are also included throughout the document.

Acronyms

ACS	Aquatic Conservation Strategy	NSO	Northern Spotted Owl
BA	Biological Assessment	O&C	Oregon and California Railroad
BAER	Burned Area Emergency Response	OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
BFRA	Butte Falls Resource Area	ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
BMP	Best Management Practices	OFPA	Oregon Forest Practices Act
ВО	Biological Opinion	ONHP	Oregon Natural Heritage Program
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations		Administration
CHU	Critical Habitat Unit	OSU	Oregon State University
CWA	Clean Water Act	PCT	Pre-Commercial Thinning
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris	PDF	Project Design Feature
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height	PIF	Partners in Flight
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement	REO	Regional Ecosytem Office
DEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	RMP	Resource Management Plan
DFC	Desired Future Condition	ROD	Record of Decision
DFPA	Douglas Forest Protection Association	ROS	Rain-on-Snow
DMA	Designated Management Agency	RUSLE	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
DO	Dissolved Oxygen	S&M	Survey and Manage
EA	Environmental Assessment	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
ECA	Equivalent Clearcut Acres	SONC	Southern Oregon/Northern California
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat	SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	51 00	Plan
ESA	Endangered Species Act	T&E	Threatened and Endangered Species
	Emergency Stabilization/Rehabilitation Plan	TEP	Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Plant
ESRP		1121	Species
ET	Evapotranspiration Final Environmental Impact Statement	TMO	Transportation Management Objectives
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement	tpa	Trees per Acre
FEMAT	Federal Ecosystem Management Assessment	TSZ	Transient Snow Zone
T" A 77	Team First Management Zone	USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
FMZ	Fuel Management Zone	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
FOI	Forest Operations Inventory	USDI	United States Department of the Interior
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	USFS	United States Forest Service
GIS	Geographic Information System	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
JACTMA	Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel		Visual Resource Management
	Management Area	VRM	
LSOG	Late-Successional/Old Growth	WA	Watershed Analysis
LSR	Late-Successional Reserve	WEPP	Water Erosion Prediction Project Wildland Urban Interface
LSRA	Late-Successional Reserve Assessment	WUI	
LWD	Large Woody Debris	WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
MBF	Thousand Board Feet	WQRP	Water Quality Restoration Plan
MMBF	Million Board Feet		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
NEAP	Natural Events Action Plan		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NFP	Northwest Forest Plan		
NOA	Notice of Availability		
NOAA-Fish	National Oceanic and Atmospheric		
	Administration–Fisheries		
NOI	Notice of Intent		
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service		
NRF	Nesting/Roosting/Foraging		



S1. Executive Summary

- Includes brief overview of Final EIS.
- Includes need and objectives, identifies major issues, discusses controversy of salvage logging, and identifies decisions to be made.
- Includes summary of proposed projects for each alternative.
- Presents summary of effects of implementing the alternatives.
- Includes map of Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative

S1.1 Introduction

The Timbered Rock Fire began Saturday, July 13 from a lightning strike on Timbered Rock. The Timbered Rock Fire burned with varying degrees of intensity across approximately 27,000 acres of high elevation (4,600 feet) mixed conifer and low elevation (2,000 feet) mixed conifer/hardwood. About 12,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered land, primarily within the Elk Creek Late-Successional Reserve (LSR), were burned. The point of origin was located approximately 8 miles from the nearest residence. The fire burned across a mixed ownership of federal, private, and industrial forest lands.

The fire created extensive areas of dead and dying trees and shrubs dispersed across a landscape that historically had high vegetation densities and high fuel loading. As trees die from insect kill and burn-related stress, snags will continue to be created within the burned areas.

Public lands administered by the BLM in the Elk Creek Watershed were designated as Late-Successional Reserve through the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) in April 1994 and incorporated into the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Preceding the Timbered Rock Fire, the Elk Creek Watershed Analysis (WA) was completed in 1995 and the South Cascades Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA) was completed in 1998. These documents emphasized the need to restore watershed functions, protect remaining mature and old-growth stands from catastrophic loss, accelerate development of late-successional habitats, reduce fuel levels in strategic locations, and create stand conditions to lower the potential for future catastrophic fire. This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses this new condition while still pursuing recommendations from the South Cascade LSRA and Elk Creek WA.

S1.2 Purpose and Need

S1.2.1 Proposed Action

Due to the Timbered Rock Fire, the Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District, BLM, proposes to take two actions. First, the BLM proposes to implement a number of restoration projects located within the Elk Creek Watershed. Second, the BLM proposes to recover the economic value of trees killed as a result of the Timbered Rock Fire (salvage) while meeting LSR objectives. Opportunities to conduct research related to post-fire logging may be incorporated into any action alternative or into a stand-alone alternative.

Based upon previous recommended restoration actions from the Elk Creek WA and the South Cascades LSRA, possible restoration projects would include, but not be limited to:

- Road decommissioning or improvement.
- Installation of fuel management zones.
- Thinnings to accelerate development of latesuccessional forest.
- Wildlife and fisheries habitat improvements.

Timber sales may be used as a tool to implement some of the fuel management zones or conduct thinnings to accelerate development of late-successional conditions in younger stands. Implementation of the restoration and protection projects would occur over the next 10 years. Implementation of LSR restoration projects or research proposals would be subject to availability of funding, personnel, and priorities, but could begin in 2004.

Research related to post-fire logging is sparse in scientific literature, particularly as it relates to the drier parts of southwest Oregon and northern California. Opportunities exist to conduct scientific research and test assumptions of standard and guidelines relating to LSR management. The proposed action is to incorporate some of these learning opportunities into this EIS.

S1.2.2 Description of the Project Area

The Elk Creek LSR and the Timbered Rock Fire area are located approximately 20 miles east of Medford, Oregon and just west of Lost Creek Reservoir (see Map 1-1). Of the 85,424 acres within the Elk Creek Watershed, 23,866 are public lands administered by the BLM. The Timbered Rock Fire affected approximately 27,000 acres of mixed federal, private, and commercial forest lands in what is generally referred to as a "checkerboard" ownership pattern (see Table S-1).

Table S-1. Land Ownership/Jurisdiction in Acres within the Timbered Rock Fire, Elk Creek Watershed, and Elk Creek LSR

Land Owner/Jurisdiction	Elk Creek Watershed	Elk Creek LSR	Timbered Rock Fire
Public Lands			
Bureau of Land Management	23,866	23,866	11,774
Rogue River NF (LSR 222)	26,863	25,505	2,647
Umpqua NF (LSR 222)	186	186	84
Army Corps of Engineers	2,617		611
Oregon Division of State Land	238		234
Private Lands			
Industrial Forestland	27,319		11,140
Other Private Lands	4,335		610
Totals	85,424	49,557	27,100
NOTE: Acres were calculated using GIS. I	Fire acres include 182	acres in the Lost Cre	ek Watershed.

The "project area" includes only public lands administered by the BLM. Opportunities for protection, enhancement, acceleration, and restoration of late-successional habitat and other proposed projects may occur anywhere within the Elk Creek LSR (LSR 224). A 400-foot "buffer" outside the watershed along the divides with Trail and Lost creeks has been included within the project area to provide an opportunity to analyze creation of fuel management zones along these divides, as presented in the South Cascades LSRA. Salvage opportunities would be confined to BLM-administered lands within the Timbered Rock Fire perimeter.

S1.2.3 Need and Objectives

S1.2.3.1 Need

The Timbered Rock Fire created the need:

- To rehabilitate fire damaged landscape.
- To assess changes in late-successional habitat conditions within the Elk Creek LSR.
- To reevaluate restoration and other actions to enhance or accelerate development of late-successional forest habitat conditions and increase resiliency to disturbance throughout the Elk Creek LSR.
- To assess the possibility of economic recovery of firekilled trees (salvage) within the fire perimeter, consistent with LSR objectives.
- To consider conducting research related to post-fire logging.

Given the controversy associated with management of Late-Successional Reserves and any proposal to recover the economic value of fire-killed trees (salvage) (particularly within an LSR), it was determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would best serve the public and land managers.

S1.2.3.2 Objectives

Objectives to be addressed in this EIS are as follows:

- 1. Manage to protect and enhance conditions of latesuccessional and old growth forest ecosystems (NFP). Desired future condition identified in LSRA is 55 percent of LSR and 75 percent of riparian reserves in late seral vegetation 80 or more years old. (LSRA) (acres)
- 2. Reduce potential amount of sedimentation resulting from the Timbered Rock Fire and any past or future management actions. (tons of sediment)
- 3. Manage to create, protect, and improve special habitats within the Elk Creek Watershed. (WA) (acres)
- 4. Restore anadromous fish habitat to increase survival rates by improving the abundance and quality of spawning gravels, deep pool habitat, side channels, and overwintering habitat (channel structures and log jams which can shelter fish), while maintaining water temperatures and quality that can sustain multiple fish species within the Elk Creek Watershed. (WA) (miles of habitat)
- 5. Manage the LSR to a level where no more than 28 percent of acres are in a high fire risk condition. (LSRA) (acres)
- 6. Improve existing suppression facilities and reestablish the role of fire to reduce wildfire size and cost and to increase resiliency to site disturbance.
- 7. Recover some economic value of fire-killed trees while meeting LSR and watershed objectives. (NFP and LSRA) (MMBF).

- 8. Where possible, conduct scientific investigations that could be implemented within the LSR to respond to controversial issues and scientific uncertainties related to salvage of fire-killed trees or fire effects on critical resources.
- 9. Analyze effects associated with fire salvage so future efforts can be tiered to this analysis.

S1.2.4 Major Issues and Controversy

\$1.2.4.1 Major Issues

The following issues were identified as major issues through public scoping and internal evaluation and are addressed in detail in this Final EIS:

- Issue 1: Recovery of the economic value of fire-killed trees.
- Issue 2: Fuel loading within the Elk Creek Watershed.
- Issue 3: Coarse woody debris and snag levels.
- Issue 4: Late-Successional forest habitat.
- Issue 5: Cumulative effects from the fire and activity on commercial timberlands.
- Issue 6: Road density and delivery of sediment to streams.
- Issue 7: Threatened or endangered and other sensitive species.

The following issues were identified during scoping but were determined to be minor issues. These issues will be addressed but not in great detail.

- Consistency with the Northwest Forest Plan and Medford District Resource Management Plan.
- Insect outbreak following the Timbered Rock Fire.
- Introduction or spread of noxious weeds.
- Hazardous trees along travel routes (public safety).

\$1.2.4.2 Controversy

Economic recovery of trees killed by wildfires (salvage) has become a very controversial subject. There are differing viewpoints in the scientific literature. State and federal land management and regulatory agencies present differing information. Some groups use guidelines from "Wildfire and Salvage Logging" (Beschta, et al. 1995) as rationale for no salvage logging, and some groups push for maximum economic recovery of dead timber. A number of scientists contend that salvage can eliminate or reduce future fire intensity. Conversely, others contend that salvage logging would not affect future fire intensity. Some maintain that any impacts from salvage logging are not justified because of the impacts already created by the wildfire. However, with all the controversy, a study by McIver and Starr in 2001 reports

that only 21 studies worldwide have actually examined the environmental effects of post-fire logging.

The results of delay in salvaging fire-killed trees are also a matter of controversy. Delay causes a loss in quantity, utility, and economic value of the dead trees. This loss in recoverability is directly related to size. Smaller trees lose their quality and economic value quicker than larger trees. Considering the time needed to prepare the required environmental analysis documents, the delay could result in a loss of salvage opportunity in small diameter trees.

Debate also exists in the reported role of salvage as a mechanism to fund restoration and rehabilitation activities following a wildfire. Under the BLM's budgeting process, receipts from BLM green timber sales are deposited into the US Treasury or into special accounts established by Congress for a variety of purposes. Receipts from BLM salvage sales are deposited into a Forest Health account to be used in other areas. Funds annually appropriated by Congress are used to finance rehabilitation and restoration projects. Some road maintenance or improvement projects may be funded through timber sale(s) where that work is needed to implement the timber sale(s).

Finally, there could be disagreements regarding proposals to implement commercial thinnings to accelerate late-successional forest characteristics in Douglas-fir stands from 30 to 80 years old. Also, thinning in pine release stands could include trees greater than 80 years old, consistent with LSRA recommendations. Both of these types of projects are recommended in the LSRA and could involve commercial removal of green trees within an LSR.

S1.2.5 Decisions to be Made

The following decisions are to be made through this analysis:

- Whether to pursue restoration activities on BLMadministered lands within and adjacent to the LSR and Elk Creek Watershed and, if so, at what level and where,
- Whether to salvage fire-killed trees from BLM-administered lands within the Timbered Rock fire perimeter and, if so, at what level and where,
- What levels of snags and coarse woody debris (CWD) should be retained, if salvage does occur,
- Whether to implement the proposed action, to vary the design of the proposed action while still meeting the Purpose and Need, or to defer any action at this time.

Salvage within an LSR is subject to review by the Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) (USDA and USDI 1994, C-13). The EIS team identified four other concerns that were forwarded to REO or to the LSR Working Group for consistency considerations. These included:

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- acreage limitations for various treatments identified in the South Cascades LSR Assessment;
- interpretation of the "10-acre rule" for salvage within an LSR;
- · research within an LSR; and
- appropriate snag and CWD levels.

Following LSR Working Group review, a few modifications were made to Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative. Based upon these changes and responses and exemptions from the LSR Working Group, it has been determined that restoration and salvage proposals presented in Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative, are consistent with the NFP and the South Cascades LSRA, as appropriate.

Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative, is also consistent with the Medford District RMP.

Some of the restoration decisions to be made would require further NEPA analysis prior to implementation. Others could be implemented as soon as the Record of Decision is approved. However, implementation would progress as funding and personnel are available. Many of the restoration and protection projects, particularly those outside the fire perimeter, would require site-specific surveys for various species or cultural resources and NEPA documentation prior to project implementation.

Salvage operations could proceed in the summer of 2004 as authorized through timber sales. This could include limited road improvements necessary to conduct salvage logging. Some of the late-successional forest restoration thinnings and pine release projects could also be implemented through timber sales or through stewardship contracts. Most of the restoration projects, including road decommissioning and improvements, some late-successional forest restoration projects, and fuel management zones proposals would only be implemented through appropriated funds.

S1.3 Alternatives

S1.3.1 Introduction

Seven alternatives were developed to provide different responses to the issues identified in Section S1.2.4. A No Action Alternative (Alternative A) was included. Alternative G is identified as the BLM's Preferred Alternative. Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative was modified based upon public comment received on the Draft EIS and internal review.

The action alternatives contain two major categories of proposed projects:

- 1. Salvage within the fire perimeter (Alternatives C-G).
- 2. Restoration projects located throughout the Elk Creek Watershed (Alternatives B-G).

Table S-2 provides a comparison of the alternatives in table format.

S1.3.2 Proposed Projects

The EIS proposes two approaches to salvage and a number of projects aimed at restoring, protecting, accelerating the development of, or otherwise enhancing late-successional forest habitat or enhancing habitat for threatened species, as summarized below. These proposals are described in more detail in Chapter 2 and Appendices D and E. The following illustrates how the alternatives are organized.

Salvage

- Area Salvage
 - Salvage Research Proposal (Alternative G only)
- Roadside Salvage

Restoration

- Fish Habitat Improvement
 - ♦ Culvert Replacement
 - ♦ Fish Structures
- Vegetation Treatments
 - ♦ Late-Successional Habitat Restoration
 - Pine Habitat Restoration
 - Riparian Habitat Restoration
 - ◆ Oak Woodland and Meadow Restoration
 - Noxious Weed Treatment
 - ♦ Reforestation
 - Reforestation Research Proposal
- Fuels Treatments
 - Fuel Management Zones
 - ♦ Fuel Hazard Reduction
- Wildlife Projects
 - Eagle Habitat Improvement
 - Denning Habitat Project
- Road Projects
 - Road Reconstruction
 - Road Stream Crossing Upgrades
 - Road Maintenance
 - Road Decommissioning
- Seasonal Road Closures
- Pump Chance Reconstruction
- Rock Quarry Closure and Rehabilitation

S1.3.2.1 Area Salvage

Area salvage is proposed on BLM-administered lands within the Timbered Rock Fire perimeter where trees were killed by the fire. Only trees that are considered dead would be salvaged. As used in this EIS, a fire-killed tree is defined as "a tree with no apparent sign of green foliage." The location and amount of salvage being considered varies by alternative. Harvest systems in all alternatives would include tractor, cable, and helicopter logging. Snag and CWD levels to be retained were important alternative design criteria.

In Alternatives A and B, no salvage would occur.

Alternatives C and D focus on high and moderate burn severity areas greater than 10 acres and less than 40 percent canopy cover where the fire resulted in a stand replacement event. Alternative C is based on guidelines from the LSRA including snag and CWD retention recommendations. Alternative D follows the guidelines from the NFP (USDA and USDI 1994, C-14). Snag and CWD retention levels in this alternative were based on the DecAID wood advisor from the LSR working group.

Alternative E considered high, moderate, low, and very low burn severity areas for salvage. Snag retention levels within the high and moderate burn severity areas for this alternative would be 6-14 snags per acre, based on study by Haggard and Gaines, 2001. The study found the highest diversity in cavity nesting species and highest number of nests in areas where snag densities ranged from 6-14 snags per acre. Snag retention within the low and very low burn severity areas would be four snags per acre. The CWD level in this alternative would be 120 linear feet per acre.

In Alternative F, the emphasis is based on guidance contained in *Recommendations for Ecologically Sound Post-Fire Salvage Management and Other Post-Fire Treatments on Federal Lands in the West* (Beschta, et al. 1995). Emphasis would be placed on recommendations to avoid severely burned areas, erosive sites, fragile soils, riparian areas, steep slopes, or sites where accelerated erosion is possible. Other recommendations from this paper were considered but were not included. Existing snags and CWD levels would be retained on all these areas. Salvage would occur in patches of fire-killed trees between 3 and 10 acres. Within each of these patches, a minimum of two acres would be reserved from salvage.

Alternative G is designed to investigate the influences of post-fire salvage and salvage intensity on wildlife response. This alternative was designed in collaboration with Oregon State University scientists and the Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research (CFER) group. Also included is reforestation research. Salvage outside of research units would follow the DecAID wood advisor.

S1.3.2.2 Roadside Salvage

Roadside salvage along open roads is proposed in Alternatives C-G. The intent is to capture the economic value of the fire-killed trees that are or could be a hazard to road users, including the public, government employees, private

landowners, and contractors. Trees felled within riparian areas or needed for log piles for wildlife habitat would be excluded from salvage.

The area considered for roadside salvage is generally a 200' strip above and below the open roads or roads needed on a temporary basis for post-fire operations. Not all trees within this 200' strip are hazards and would not be salvaged; only those trees that pose a threat or potential threat would be harvested. Guidance from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) would be considered to determine hazard trees. Roadside hazards would vary by location along the road and burn severity. Areas below the road would have fewer hazard trees than areas above the road. Stand replacement areas (generally high and moderate severity) would have higher concentrations of hazard trees. Areas of low and very low severity would have fewer hazard trees and would be isolated trees scattered along the roads.

S1.3.2.3 Restoration

Restoration projects are proposed in the action alternatives, Alternatives B-G. Alternative A (No Action) has no restoration projects proposed, but rehabilitation and stabilization projects proposed in the Timbered Rock Fire Emergency Stabilization/Rehabilitation Plan (ESRP) would be implemented.

Four levels of restoration projects are proposed in the six action alternatives: no restoration, focused, moderate, and extensive. The alternatives vary by the scope of the projects (acres, miles of roads, etc.), intensity of the treatments, and location of the treatments. Restoration projects are located both within the Timbered Rock Fire perimeter and outside the fire area. Most projects are located within the Elk Creek Watershed; however, a proposed eagle nest project and some fuel management zone (FMZ) projects are located on a ridge top within adjacent watersheds. Projects are based on recommendations presented in the LSRA and/or Elk Creek WA, or were developed to address specific issues.

Projects proposed within the fire area focus on road projects to reduce existing and potential sedimentation from the road network, fish improvement projects, development of FMZs, and reducing future hazardous fuel conditions within existing Northern Spotted Owl activity centers. Reforestation of the burned area was assessed in the ESRP Environmental Assessment. A reforestation study is included in Alternative G which would evaluate a variety of planting densities, species, and follow-up treatments in both salvage and unsalvaged areas. A number of projects designed to accelerate development of late-successional forest habitat conditions are proposed for areas outside the fire but within the LSR in Alternatives B, C, D, E, and G.

S1.3.3 Description of Alternatives Considered in Detail

S1.3.3.1 Alternative A: No Action or Continuation of Current Management

Salvage Area Salvage

No programmed area salvage.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

Identified hazard trees would be cut. Any salvage of hazardous trees would be determined through appropriate NEPA documentation.

Restoration

Continue current management under NFP and RMP direction and the Timbered Rock Fire ESRP. Continue to plan and implement other restoration projects as funding and time permits, but implement the ESRP as described.

S1.3.3.2 Alternative B: No Salvage; Focused Restoration

Salvage Area Salvage

No programmed area salvage.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

Identified hazard trees would be cut. Any salvage of hazardous trees would be determined through appropriate NEPA documentation.

Restoration

Implement a focused level of restoration projects (see Table S-2). Emphasis would be placed on reducing noncommercial-size vegetative competition in overstocked stands with density management treatments, fuels reduction treatments, and pine habitat restoration. Areas proposed for treatment would be those in most need of competing vegetation reduction. Within the fire perimeter, restoration would focus on high priority road work. LSR restoration actions would focus on non-commercial projects.

S1.3.3.3 Alternative C: South Cascades LSRA Criteria for Salvage; Moderate Restoration

Salvage Area Salvage

- Salvage 247 acres using guidelines from the South Cascades LSRA (see Appendix B).
- Harvest in stand replacement patches greater than 10

acres; less than 40 percent canopy closure.

• Prohibit salvage in the following areas:

Low and very low burned areas (40 percent or greater live canopy).

Riparian areas.

Patches less than 10 acres.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

- Roadside salvage 1,078 acres.
- BLM would identify hazard trees along open roads or roads needed for temporary use for post-fire operations except roads within riparian areas and owl activity centers with suitable habitat.
- Hazard trees identified by road users within riparian areas and remaining owl activity centers with suitable habitat would be felled and left in place, except where trees or portions of trees fall within road prism.

Restoration

Implement a moderate level of restoration (see Table S-2). Emphasis would be placed on reducing vegetative competition in overstocked stands with density management treatments and pine habitat restoration to accelerate development of late-successional forest conditions. Fuel management zones would be placed on ridge tops to potentially reduce future fires to 5,000 to 7,000 acres and to provide protection to lands within the wildland urban interface. Within the fire perimeter, restoration would focus on high priority road work.

S1.3.3.4 Alternative D: LSR Salvage using DecAID Wood Advisor for Snags and CWD; Moderate Restoration

Salvage Area Salvage

- Salvage 820 acres.
- Salvage in stand replacement patches greater than 10 acres; less than 40 percent canopy closure.
- Use snag and CWD levels from DecAID Wood Advisor.
- Prohibit salvage in the following areas:
 - ♦ Low and unburned areas; 40 percent or greater live canopy.
 - Riparian areas.
 - Patches less than 10 acres in size.
 - ◆ Selected owl activity centers in T32S, R1W, Section 1 and T33S, R1W, Section 1.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

- Roadside salvage 1,064 acres.
- Follow same guidelines as in Alternative C.

Restoration

Implement a moderate level of restoration (see Table S-2).

• Same as Alternative C.

S1.3.3.5 Alternative E: High Level of Salvage; Extensive Restoration

Salvage

Salvage would be considered in all burn severity levels. This would include areas where stand replacement occurred as well as stands with scattered or clumps of fire-killed trees. Snag levels within the high and moderate severity areas would be based on levels suggested in study by Haggard and Gaines in 2001. This study concluded the highest diversity in cavity nesting species and highest number of nests were found in densities ranging from 6-14 snags per acre.

Area Salvage

- Salvage 3,269 acres.
- Salvage fire-killed trees in all stands (high/moderate/low/unburned severity areas).
- In high and moderate burn severity areas:
 - ♦ Leave 8 snags per acre in Douglas-fir plant series.
 - ♦ Leave 12 snags per acre in White fir plant series.
 - Snags will be greater than 14" DBH.
- In low and very low burn severity areas, leave 4 snags per acre greater than 14" DBH.
- In all stands, leave minimum of 120 linear feet of CWD per acre greater than 16" DBH.
- Prohibit salvage in riparian areas.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

- Roadside salvage 536 acres.
- Follow same guidelines as in Alternative C.

Restoration

Implement an extensive level of restoration (see Table S-2). Guidelines would be the same as Alternative C, except more acres and roads would be treated.

S1.3.3.6 Alternative F: Salvage Based on Report by Beschta et al.; Focused Restoration within the Fire Area Only

Salvage Area Salvage

- Salvage 213 acres.
- Salvage pockets of dead trees between 3-10 acres in size located in green stands; leave a minimum of 2 acres untouched within each pocket.
- No salvage in the following areas:
 - ◆ Clumps of dead trees less than 3 acres or greater than 10 acres.
 - ♦ High and moderate burn severity areas.
 - ◆ Erosive sites or sites where accelerated erosion is possible.
 - ◆ Fragile soils.
 - Steep slopes.
 - Riparian areas.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

- Roadside salvage 1,182 acres.
- Follow same guidelines as in Alternative C.

Restoration

The Beschta, et al. report does not address actions outside of a burned area. As a result, no LSR restoration actions are proposed. Restoration projects would include those in Alternative B, but only within the fire perimeter (see Table S-2).

S1.3.3.7 Alternative G (Preferred Alternative): Salvage Based on Research Questions and Salvage in Stand Replacement Units greater than 10 Acres; Moderate Restoration Emphasis (see Map 2-6f)

Salvage

Salvage would be considered in stand replacement (high and moderate burn severity) areas greater than 10 acres and less than 40 percent canopy closure. Two types of area salvage proposed – "research units" and "remaining area." Salvage in research units would be based on responding to research questions revolving around the influences of post-fire salvage and salvage intensities on wildlife species. Snag levels in research units would be based on study design. Snag levels in remaining area salvage units would be based on DecAID wood advisor and other local and regional references (see Appendix D).

Area Salvage

1. Research Units

Salvage would be based on responding to research questions revolving around the influences of post-fire salvage and salvage intensities on wildlife species. Snag levels in research units would be based on study design.

- Salvage 282 acres.
- 12 units included in research proposal.
- Units are 30 acres or greater.
- Three treatments levels implemented:
 - 1. Control no salvage activity.
 - 2. Moderate Salvage 30% unsalvaged; 70% salvaged leaving 6 snags per acre greater than 20" DBH.
 - 3. Heavy Salvage entire site salvaged leaving 6 snags per acre greater than 20" DBH.
- Salvage would occur in approximately 11 acres of Riparian Reserve.
- Harvest systems include:
 - cable 136 acres
 - ◆ tractor 7 acres
 - helicopter 139 acres

2. Remaining Area Salvage

Salvage outside of research units, "remaining area," would consider salvaging of stand replacement (high and moderate burn severity) areas greater than 10 acres and less than 40 percent canopy closure. Snag levels in these units would be based on DecAID Wood Advisor and other local and regional references (see Appendix D).

- Salvage 679 acres in units greater than 10 acres.
- Use small patch clear cuts or group selection. Openings created would not exceed 20 acres.
- Snags would be retained in reserved area outside of cut patches
- Leave average of 8 snags per acre in Douglas-fir plant series
- Leave average of 12 snags per acre in White fir plant series.
- Snags will be greater than 14" DBH.
- Harvest systems include:
 - ◆ cable 266 acres
 - ◆ tractor 106 acres
 - helicopter 272 acres
 - ♦ bull-line 35 acres
- Construct and rehabilitate 0.9 miles of temporary road.
- No new permanent roads.
- Prohibit salvage in riparian areas.

Salvage of Roadside Hazard Trees

- Roadside salvage 1,188 acres.
- Follow same guidelines as in Alternative C.

Restoration

- Implement a moderate level of restoration (see Table S-2).
- Same as Alternative C.

S1.4 Summary of the Effects of the Alternatives

The summary of the effects from implementing any alternative is presented in Table S-3. This table is the same as Table 2-2.

Table	S-2.	Co	mpar	ison	of A	Alternativ	es

Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action – Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Salvage							
Area Salvage	• None	• None	• 247 acres	• 820 acres	• 3,269 acres	• 213 acres	Research units: • 282 acres Outside research units: • 679 acres
Roadside Salvage	• None	• None	• 1,078 acres bull- line	• 1,064 acres bull- line	• 536 acres bull- line	• 1,182 acres bull- line	• 1,188 acres bull- line
Restoration					,		
Fish Habitat Imp	rovement						
Culvert for fish passage		Replace 4 culverts	• Replace 4 culverts	• Replace 4 culverts	Replace 4 culverts	Replace culverts	Replace 4 culverts
Fish Structures over 8 miles		• 3 rock weirs and 15 logs per mile	• 5 rock weirs and 20 logs per mile	• 5 rock weirs and 20 logs per mile	• 10 rock weirs and 25 logs per mile	• 3 rock weirs and 25 logs per mile	• 5 rock weirs and 20 logs per mile
Vegetation Treatm	ients						
Late-Successional Forest Habitat Restoration		• Thin 1,102 acres	• Thin 1,328 acres	• Thin 1,328 acres	• Thin 1,978 acres	• None	• Thin 1,328 acres
Pine Restoration		• Thin 156 acres	• Thin 793 acres	• Thin 793 acres	• Thin 2,005 acres	• None	• Thin 793 acres
Riparian Reserve Thinning		• Thin 117 acres	• Thin 359 acres	• Thin 359 acres	• Thin 1,050 acres	• None	• Thin 359 acres
Oak Woodland and Meadow		• Thin 1,003 acres	• Thin 1,544 acres	• Thin 1,544 acres	• Thin 1,544 acres	• Thin 540 acres	• Thin 1,544 acres
Reforestation	• 6,000 acres	• 1,192 acres	• 2,152 acres	• 2,152 acres	• 6,000 acres	• 1,045 acres	• 2,152 acres
Fuels Treatments							
FMZs		• 1,300 acres	• 1,300 acres	• 1,300 acres	• 1,300 acres	• 500 acres	• 1,300 acres

Table S-2. Comparison of Alternatives

Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action – Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Salvage							
Fuel Treatments within Owl Activity Centers		• 425 acres within 4 sites	• 425 acres within 4 sites	• 425 acres within 4 sites	• 425 acres within 4 sites	• 300 acres within 3 sites	• 425 acres within 4 sites
Fuels Treatment- West Branch Fire		• 70 acres	• 70 acres	• 70 acres	• 70 acres	• None	• 70 acres
Wildlife Projects							
Eagle Nesting Habitat		• Thin 50 acres at 2 sites	• Thin 50 acres at 2 sites	• Thin 50 acres at 2 sites	• Thin 50 acres at 2 sites	• None	• Thin 50 acres at 2 sites
Log Piles for Wildlife Habitat		• None	• 6 sites	• 6 sites	• 6 sites	• 6 sites	• 6 sites
Road Projects							
Reconstruction		• 2.6 miles	• 2.6 miles	• 2.6 miles	• 2.6 miles	• 2.6 miles	• 2.6 miles
Stream Crossing Upgrades		• 15 sites	• 11 sites	• 11 sites	• 26 sites	• 26 sites	• 11 sites
Maintenance		• 100 miles	• 100 miles	• 100 miles	• 115 miles	• 68 miles	• 100 miles
Decommission:		• 35 miles	• 35 miles	• 35 miles	• 43 miles	• 17 miles	• 35 miles
Road closures:		• 21 miles	• 21 miles	• 21 miles	• 21 miles	• 14 miles	• 21 miles
Seasonal Road Closures		• None	• None	• None	• 114 miles; mid-October to April 30	• None	• 114 miles, mid- October to Apr. 30
Pump Chance Reconstruction		• 8 sites	• 8 sites	• 8 sites	• 8 sites	• 4 sites	• 8 sites

Table S-3. Sun	nmary of the E	ffects of the Alt	ernatives				
Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Recovery of the Ec	onomic Value of Fir	re-Killed Trees (Salv	age)				
Volume of salvage recovered	• None	• None	• 8.6 mmbf	• 21.0 mmbf	• 29.4mmbf	• 8.0mmbf	• 23.4mmbf
Revenue per mbf	• \$0.0	• \$0.0	• \$225	• \$209	• \$184	• \$229	• \$204
Expected receipts from timber sale	• None	• None	• \$1.9 million	• \$4.4 million	• \$5.4 million	• \$1.8 million	• \$4.8 million
Value of salvage to regional economy	• None	• None	• \$7.4 million	• \$18.1 million	• \$25.2 million	• \$6.9 million	• \$20.1 million
Direct jobs from salvage	• None	• None	• 81	• 199	• 277	• 76	• 221
Total direct and indirect jobs to regional economy from salvage	• None	• None	• 130	• 318	• 443	• 121	• 354
Economic Value of	Restoration Projec	ets					
Direct and indirect jobs created from all restoration projects	• 122	• 146	• 215	• 215	• 325	• 84	• 215
Pine Release and I	LSR Thinnings						
Volume of harvest from vegetation treatments	• None	• None	• 2.5 mmbf	• 2.5 mmbf	• 5.5 mmbf	• None	• 2.5 mmbf
Cost of harvesting vegetation treatments	• None	• None	• \$159,800	• \$159,800	• \$362,000	• None	• \$159,800
Direct and indirect jobs created	• None	• None	• 38	• 38	• 83	• None	• 38

Table S-3. Summary	of the	Effects	of the Alternatives
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Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Road projects, refe	orestation, fuel mana	ngement zones, fish st	ructures, eagle nests	s, oak woodland trea	tments, and other re	storation projects	
Cost of projects	• \$3,400,000	• \$5,200,000	• \$5,900,000	• \$5,900,000	• \$8,400,000	• \$2,800,000	• \$5,900,000
Direct and indirect jobs created	• 122	• 142	• 161	• 161	• 232	• 78	• 161
Cost of Research							
Reforestation		• \$0	• \$0	• \$0	• \$0	• \$0	• \$415,600 over 6 years
Wildlife/snags		• \$0	• \$0	• \$0	• \$0	• \$0	• \$920,581 over 6 years
Fuel Loading Witl	hin the Elk Creek Wa	atershed					
Acres of FMZs	No reduction in fuel profiles	 1,300 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification Reduce fire intensity and size of future fires throughout LSR 	 1,300 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification Reduce fire intensity and size of future fires throughout LSR 	 1,300 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification Reduce fire intensity and size of future fires throughout LSR 	 1,300 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification Reduce fire intensity and size of future fires throughout LSR 	 500 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification Reduce fire intensity and size of future fires only within fire perimeter 	 1,300 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification Reduce fire intensity and size of future fires throughout LSR
Protection to wildland urban interface and industrial forestland	No additional protection to wildland urban interface and industrial forestland	 Reduce fire intensity and severity on 4,090 acres of hazardous fuels Provides additional protection to 30,700 acres within WUI 	 Reduce fire intensity and severity on 5,557 acres of hazardous fuels Provides additional protection to 30,700 acres within WUI 	 Reduce fire intensity and severity on 5,557 acres of hazardous fuels Provides additional protection to 30,700 acres within WUI 	 Reduce fire intensity and severity on 6,914 acres of hazardous fuels Provides additional protection to 30,700 acres within WUI 	 Reduce fire intensity and severity on 1,340 acres of hazardous fuels Provides minimal protection to 30,700 acres within WUI 	 Reduce fire intensity and severity on 5,557 acres of hazardous fuels Provides additional protection to 30,700 acres within WUI

Protection to remaining LSR habitat	No additional protection	• 3,088 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 4,013 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 4,013 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 5,360 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	No treatment	4,013 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification
Underburning of oak woodlands and owl centers	 Continued encroachment to oak woodlands Remains high fire hazard 	• 1,428 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 1,969 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 1,969 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 1,969 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	840 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification	• 1,969 acres of fuel hazard reduction and fuel profile modification
Coarse Woody Deb	oris (CWD) and Sna	gs					
Estimated fire- killed trees (≥8" DBH) removed or	• Removed: 0 trees • Retained:	• Removed: 0 trees • Retained:	• Removed: 17,148 trees • Retained:	• Removed: 42,529 trees • Retained:	• Removed: 65,794 trees • Retained:	• Removed: 15,481 trees • Retained:	• Removed: 43,787 trees • Retained:
retained in fire area	347,303 trees (100%)	347,303 trees (100%)	330,115 trees (95%)	304,774 trees (88%)	281,509 trees (81%)	331,822 trees (96%)	303,516 trees (87%)
Stand-replacement acres not salvaged	• 2,586 acres (100%).	• 2,586 acres (100%)	• 2,339 acres (90%)	• 1,766 acres (68%)	• 656 acres (25%)	• 2,373 acres (92%)	• 1,625 acres (63%)
Acceleration of La	te-Successional Fore	st Habitat Characte	ristics				
Treatment of young stands	No changeSlower development of late-successional habitat	• Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,258 acres	Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 878 acres	• Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 878 acres	• Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,258 acres	 No change Slower development of late-successional habitat 	Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 878 acres
Treatment of mid- seral stands	 No change. Slower development of late-successional habitat 	Slower development of late-successional habitat	Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 557 acres	• Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 557 acres	• Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,038 acres	 No change Slower development of late-successional habitat 	• Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 557 acres
Treatment of 80+ year old pine stands	No change	No change	• Increase resiliency to fire and maintain pine in late-successional stands on 686 acres	• Increase resiliency to fire and maintain pine in late-successional stands on 686 acres	• Increase resiliency to fire and maintain pine in late-successional stands on 1,749 acres	No change	• Increase resiliency to fire and maintain pine in late-successional stands on 686 acres

Table S-3. Summary of the Effects of the Alternatives

Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Thinning and burning of oak woodlands and meadows	No restoration Areas continue to decline	 Increased vigor and resiliency of oak woodlands and meadows on 1,003 acres within fire perimeter Continued decline outside of fire perimeter 	• Increased vigor and resiliency of oak woodlands and meadows on 1,554 acres throughout LSR	Increased vigor and resiliency of oak woodlands and meadows on 1,554 acres throughout LSR	Increased vigor and resiliency of oak woodlands and meadows on 1,554 acres throughout LSR	 Increased vigor and resiliency of oak woodlands and meadows on 540 acres within fire perimeter Continued decline outside of fire perimeter 	• Increased vigor and resiliency of oak woodlands and meadows on 1,554 acres throughout LSR
Reforestation	• Maximum conifer establishment on 6,000 acres across fire area	 3,016 acres planted Expedite conifer establishment on high and moderate burn severity areas More gap effect 	 2,152 acres planted Expedite conifer establishment on high and moderate burn severity areas More gap effect 	 2,152 acres planted Expedite conifer establishment on high and moderate burn severity areas More gap effect 	Maximum conifer establishment on 6,000 acres planted across fire area	 Reforestation only on most critical 1,045 acres Remainder; no reforestation for 3 years and then reevaluate Slowest development of late-successional forest 	 2,152 acres planted. Expedite conifer establishment on high and moderate burn severity areas. More gap effect. Research to better understand reforestation effects
Riparian Reserve reforestation	• Maximize conifer establishment in Riparian Reserves	• Establish a more biologically diverse mix of riparian vegetation	• Establish a more biologically diverse mix of riparian vegetation	Establish a more biologically diverse mix of riparian vegetation	Maximize conifer establishment in Riparian Reserves	Establish a more biologically diverse mix of riparian vegetation	Establish a more biologically diverse mix of riparian vegetation

Riparian Reserve restoration thinning	 No treatments Slower development of late-successional forest conditions 	 Faster development of late-successional forest conditions on 117 acres treated Girdling of trees provides a sustained pulse of snags/CWD 	 Faster development of late-successional forest conditions on 359 acres Girdling of trees provides a sustained pulse of snags/CWD 	 Faster development of late-successional forest conditions on 359 acres Girdling of trees provides a sustained pulse of snags/CWD 	 Faster development of late-successional forest conditions on 1,050 acres Girdling of trees provides a sustained pulse of snags/CWD 	 No treatments. Slower development of late-successional forest conditions 	 Faster development of late-successional forest conditions on 359 acres Girdling of trees provides a sustained pulse of snags/CWD
Road Density							
Road density within Elk Creek Watershed	• 4.7 miles per square mile	• 4.5 miles per square mile	• 4.4 miles per square mile	• 4.4 miles per square mile	• 4.3 miles per square mile	• 4.5 miles per square mile	• 4.4 miles per square mile
Road density on BLM-administered land	• 4.3 miles per square mile	• 3.4 miles per square mile.	• 3.4 miles per square mile	• 3.4 miles per square mile	• 3.1 miles per square mile	• 3.8 miles per square mile	• 3.4 miles per square mile
Percent decrease in BLM road miles	• None	• 23%	• 23%	• 23%	• 27%	• 10%	• 23%
Soils							
Erosion: Salvage effect primarily caused by type of logging system employed (% is area affected): • Tractor; 12% • Bull-line; 12% • Cable; 5% • Helicopter; 4%	• No effect	• No effect	 Increased sediment relative to acres salvaged and yarding system used: Tractor 21 acres Bull-line 1,090 acres Cable 123 acres Helicopter 91 acres 	 Increased sediment relative to acres salvaged and yarding system used: Tractor 112 acres Bull-line 1,083 acres Cable 368 acres Helicopter 321 acres 	 Increased sediment relative to acres salvaged and yarding system used: Tractor 165 acres Bull-line 724 acres Cable 853 acres Helicopter 2,063 acres 	 Increased sediment relative to acres salvaged and yarding system used: Tractor 29 acres Bull-line 1,198 acres Cable 46 acres Helicopter 122 acres 	 Increased sediment relative to acres salvaged and yarding system used: Tractor 113 acres Bull-line 1,223 acres Cable 402 acres Helicopter 411 acres
Soil compaction (12% of tractor- yarded acres)	No effect	No effect	 Increased compaction and soil displacement Maximum compaction of 3 acres 	 Increased compaction and soil displacement Maximum compaction of 13 acres. 	 Increased compaction and soil displacement Maximum compaction of 20 acres 	 Increased compaction and soil displacement Maximum compaction of 4 acres 	 Increased compaction and soil displacement Maximum compaction of 14 acres

Table S-3. Summary of the Effects of the Alternatives

Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Soil productivity	No effect	No effect	• Slight long-term adverse from removing some organic matter from 1,325 acres	• Slight long-term adverse from removing some organic matter from 1,884 acres	• Slight long-term adverse from removing some organic matter from 3,805 acres	• Slight long-term adverse from removing some organic matter from 1,395 acres	• Slight long-term adverse from removing some organic matter from 2,149 acres
Delivery of Sedime	nt to Streams						
Road decommissioning: reduces sediment delivery by 80-100% on treated road miles.	 No roads decommissioned Continue existing erosion rates from roads. 	 Potential short-term increase in delivery to streams followed by long-term reduction on 35 miles decommissioned Return 144 acres to natural forest condition Removal of 55 stream-crossings reduces annual road mass wasting rate by 3% 	 Potential short-term increase in delivery to streams followed by long-term reduction on 35 miles decommissioned Return 144 acres to natural forest condition Removal of 133 stream-crossings reduces annual road mass wasting rate by 8% 	 Potential short-term increase in delivery to streams followed by long-term reduction on 35 miles decommissioned Return 144 acres to natural forest condition Removal of 133 stream-crossings reduces annual road mass wasting rate by 8% 	 Potential short-term increase in delivery to streams followed by long-term reduction on 43 miles decommissioned Return 172 acres to natural forest condition Removal of 148 stream-crossings reduces annual road mass wasting rate by 9% 	 Potential short-term increase in delivery to streams followed by long-term reduction on 17 miles decommissioned Return 68 acres to natural forest condition Removal of 55 stream-crossings reduces annual road mass wasting rate by 3% 	 Potential short-term increase in delivery to streams followed by long-term reduction on 35 miles decommissioned Return 144 acres to natural forest condition Removal of 133 stream-crossings reduces annual road mass wasting rate by 8%
Road maintenance: reduces sediment delivery by about 46% on treated road miles.	Continued erosion rates from roads	• Treat 100 miles	• Treat 100 miles	• Treat 100 miles	• Treat 115 miles	• Treat 68 miles	• Treat 100 miles

Stream-crossing upgrades.	 No upgrades 13% increase in annual road mass wasting rate 	 Upgrade 15 high risk sites containing 11,000 yd³ of sediment 13% decrease in annual road mass wasting rate 	 Upgrade 11 sites containing 8,000 yd³ of sediment 16% decrease in annual road mass wasting rat. 	 Upgrade 11 sites containing 8,000 yd³ of sediment 16% decrease in annual road mass wasting rate 	 Upgrade 26 sites containing 19,000 yd³ of sediment 22% decrease in annual road mass wasting rate 	 Upgrade 26 high risk sites containing 19,000 yd³ of sediment 13% decrease in annual road mass wasting rate 	 Upgrade 11 sites containing 8,000 yd³ of sediment 16% decrease in annual road mass wasting rate
Seasonal closures of 114 miles of road	• None	• None	• None	• None	Reduce road damage and sediment delivery to streams	• None	Reduce road damage and sediment delivery to streams
Threatened or End							
Salvage: Assume occupancy in 11 sites (active sites)	No change	No change	• No salvage within ¼ mile • Enters 40 acres within ½-mile radius • Lowest risk of adverse impact	• No salvage within ¼ mile • Enters 8 sites; 111 acres within ½ mile • Low risk of adverse impacts	• Enters 9 sites; 219 acres within ¼ mile and 826 acres within ½ mile • Enters units <10 acres and areas with >40% canopy • Degrades suitable habitat • High risk of adverse impacts	 No salvage within ¼ mile Enter 6 sites; 40 acres within ½ mile Enters units <10 acres in size Degrades suitable habitat Moderate risk of adverse impacts 	Research Units • Enters 3 sites; 49 acres within ¼ mile • Enters 4 sites; 138 acres within ½ mile Area Salvage: • No salvage within ¼ mile • Enters 10 sites: 169 acres within ½ mile • Moderate risk of adverse impacts

Table S-3. Summary of the Effects of the Alternatives

Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Salvage: Assume no occupancy in 8 sites (non-active)	No change	No change	• Enters 4 sites; 109 acres within ¼ mile • Enters 6 sites; 221 acres within ½ mile • Low risk of adverse effec	• Enters 4 sites; • Enters 4 sites; 125 acres within ¼ mile • Enters 9 sites; 314 acres within ½ mile • Low risk of adverse effect	• Enters 9 sites; 240 acres within ¼ mile • Enters 10 sites; 672 acres within ½ mile • Enters units <10 acres and areas with >40% canopy • Degrades suitable habitat • Highest risk of adverse effect	• Enters 5 sites; 24 acres within ½ mile • Enters 8 sites; 70 acres within ½ mile • Enters units <10 acres in size • Degrades suitable habitat • Moderate risk of adverse effect	Research Units: • Enters 2 sites; 100 acres within ½ mile • Enters 2 sites; 162 acres within ½ mile Area Salvage: • Enters 5 sites; 72 acres within ¼ mile • Enters 7 sites; 232 acres within ½ mile • Moderate risk of adverse effect

Restoration	 No beneficial effects from thinnings or habitat improvements No adverse effect 	 1,300 acre FMZ Low short-term adverse effect modifying suitable habitat Moderate long-term benefit protecting habitat Thinnings Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,704 acres Moderate long-term beneficial effect 	 1,300 acre FMZ Low short-term adverse effect modifying suitable habitat. Moderate long-term benefit protecting habitat. Thinnings Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,560 acres Moderate long-term beneficial effect 	 1,300 acre FMZ Low short-term adverse effect modifying suitable habitat Moderate long-term benefit protecting habitat Thinnings Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,560 acres Moderate long-term beneficial effect 	 1,300 acre FMZ Low short-term adverse effect modifying suitable habitat Moderate long-term benefit protecting habitat Thinnings Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 2,637 acres Moderate long-term beneficial effect 	 500 acre FMZ Inside fire, no short-term adverse effect modifying suitable habitat Low long- term benefit protecting future habitat Thinnings No beneficial effects from thinnings No adverse effect 	 1,300 acre FMZ Low short-term adverse effect modifying suitable habitat Moderate long-term benefit protecting habitat Thinnings Accelerate development of late-successional habitat on 1,560 acres Moderate long-term beneficial effect
American Bald I	 Eagle						
Restoration: Eagle nesting habitat projects	No change	 Future nesting habitat established at 2 sites (50 acres) Could contribute to delisting 	 Future nesting habitat established at 2 sites (50 acres) Could contribute to delisting 	 Future nesting habitat established at 2 sites (50 acres) Could contribute to delisting 	 Future nesting habitat established at 2 sites (50 acres) Could contribute to delisting 	No change	 Future nesting habitat established at 2 sites (50 acres) Could contribute to delisting
Coho Salmon							
Salvage	No salvage, no effect	No salvage, no effect	 Insignificant/ discernible effect to fish and fish populations May affect, NLAA 	 Insignificant/ discernible effect to fish and fish populations May affect, NLAA 	 Insignificant/ discernible effect to fish and fish populations May affect, NLAA 	 Insignificant/ discernible effect to fish and fish populations May affect, NLAA 	 Insignificant/ discernible effect to fish and fish populations May affect, NLAA

Table S-3. Summary of the Effects of the Alternatives

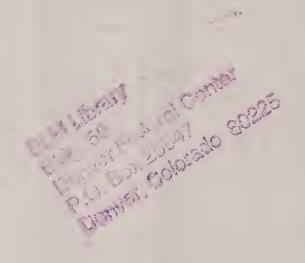
Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Restoration	 No change; Substantial adverse effects May affect, LAA 	 Short-term adverse and low long-term beneficial effect May affect, NLAA 	 Short-term adverse and moderate long-term beneficial effect May affect, NLAA 	 Short-term adverse and moderate long-term beneficial effect May affect, NLAA 	 Short-term adverse and substantial long-term beneficial effect May affect, NLAA 	 Short-term adverse and moderate long-term beneficial effect May affect, NLAA 	 Short-term adverse and moderate long-term beneficial effect May affect, NLAA
Sensitive Species							
Cavity nesters: Salvage	No change	No change	• Negligible impacts (80-100% of snags remain)	• Very low impacts (manage for 80% and 50% tolerance levels)	Moderate impact; highest number of snags removed	• Low impact (<2 acre patches and all burn outside green patches remain)	• Low impact (patches <10 acres 100% snags remain; 8-12 snags/acre left in treated acres)
Late-Successional habitat associated species: Salvage	No impacts	No impacts	Negligible effects to late- successional habitat	Negligible effects to late- successional habitat	Low to moderate effects due to adverse impact to latesuccessional stand development	Low due to adverse impact to late- successional stand development	Negligible effects to late- successional habitat

Late-Successional habitat associated species: Restoration Big game: road restoration projects	No change in road density	 Slower development of late-successional habitat Low effects to species that would use dense understory in FMZs Potential increase in winter vehicle traffic from road restoration Decommission and closure of 35 miles of road reduces poaching and disturbance 	 Low short-term disturbance during activity Long-term benefit to species that use high canopy and open understory Low effects to species that would use dense understory in FMZs Potential increase in winter vehicle traffic from road restoration Decommission and closure of 35 miles of road reduces poaching and disturbance 	 Low short-term disturbance during activity Long-term benefit to species that use high canopy and open understory Low effects to species that would use dense understory in FMZs Potential increase in winter vehicle traffic from road restoration Decommission and closure of 35 miles of road reduces poaching and disturbance 	 Low short-term disturbance during activity High benefit to habitat development Low effects to species that would use dense understory in FMZs Potential increase in winter vehicle traffic from road restoration Decommission and closure of 43 miles of road reduces poaching and disturbance Reduces poaching and disturbance by seasonally closing 114 	Slower development of late-successional habitat Low effects to species that would use dense understory in FMZs Potential increase in winter vehicle traffic from road restoration Decommission and closure of 17 miles of road reduces poaching and disturbance	 Low short-term disturbance during activity Long-term benefit to species that use high canopy and open understory Low effects to species that would use dense understory in FMZs Potential increase in winter vehicle traffic from road restoration Decommission and closure of 35 miles of road reduces poaching and disturbance Reduces poaching and disturbance by seasonally closing 114
Special Status and	Survey and Manag	e Plants (vascular an	d nonvascular)		miles of road		miles of road
Salvage	No change	No change	• Slight negative effect from tractor harvest and temporary roads	Low adverse effect from tractor harvest and temporary roads	Moderate adverse effect from tractor harvest and temporary roads	Very slight negative effect from tractor harvest. No roads	Low negative effect from tractor harvest and temporary roads

Table S-3. Summary of the Effects of the Alternatives

Proposed Projects	Alternative A No Action - Continuation of Current Management	Alternative B No Salvage; Focused Restoration	Alternative C LSRA Salvage; Moderate Restoration	Alternative D LSR Salvage with DecAID; Moderate Restoration	Alternative E High Salvage; Extensive Restoration	Alternative F Salvage based on Report by Beschta, et al.; Focused Restoration in Fire Area Only	Alternative G Salvage based on Research; Moderate Restoration
Restoration	No benefits from habitat enhancement projects	Low beneficial effects from habitat enhancement and fuels reduction projects	 Moderate beneficial effects from habitat enhancement and fuels reduction projects Slight negative impact from tractor harvest 	 Moderate beneficial effects from habitat enhancement and fuels reduction projects Low negative impact from tractor harvest 	 High beneficial effects from habitat enhancement and fuels reduction projects Moderate negative impact from tractor harvest 	Low beneficial effects from habitat enhancement and fuels reduction projects	 Moderate beneficial effects from habitat enhancement and fuels reduction projects Low negative impact from tractor harvest
Insect Outbreak							
Salvage	 Wood borer; moderate to high increase Bark beetle; low to moderate increase 	No change	No noticeable change	 Wood borer; very slight decrease Bark beetle: very slight decrease 	 Wood borer: slight to moderate decrease Bark beetle: slight decrease 	No noticeable change	 Wood borer: slight decrease Bark beetle: slight decrease
Restoration	 Wood borer: no change Bark beetle: slight increase 	No change	 Wood borer: very slight increase Bark beetle: very slight increase 	Wood borer: very slight increase • Bark beetle: very slight increase	 Wood borer: slight increase Bark beetle: low to moderate increase 	No change	 Wood borer: very slight increase Bark beetle: very slight increase
Noxious Weeds P	Populations					1	
Salvage	No increased risk of invasion	No increased risk of invasion	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance and harvest systems	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance and harvest systems	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance and harvest systems	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance and harvest systems	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance and harvest systems

Restoration		• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance	• Increased risk of noxious weed establishment relative to disturbance
Public Safety							
Road side hazard tree removal	 Potential hazards removed when identified Higher risk to public 	 Potential hazards removed when identified Higher risk to public 	Potential hazard trees cut reduces risk to public	Potential hazard trees cut reduces risk to public	Potential hazard trees cut reduces risk to public	Potential hazard trees cut reduces risk to public	Potential hazard trees cut reduces risk to public
Total area within fire perimeter with lower snag levels	• 22%	• 22%	• 24%	• 29%	• 49%	• 23%	• 33%
Consistency of Acti	ions with NFP/RMP	/LSRA					
Salvage: Consistency concerns related to 10-acre rule Salvage in areas with greater than 40% canopy Snags and CWD requirements Acres treated Research	No salvage	• No salvage	• Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres salvaged	Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres salvaged	 Not consistent with NFP, RMP, or LSRA Plan amendment required for: Salvage in stands with >40% canopy Salvage stands <10 acres in size 	 Not consistent with NFP, RMP, or LSRA Plan amendment required for: Salvage stands <10 acres in size 	 Research consistent with NFP Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres salvaged
Restoration: Consistency concerns related to FMZs Late- successional habitat enhancement Acres treated	Reforestation consistent with NFP and RMP	 Treatments consistent with LSRA guidelines for FMZs and late-successional habitat enhancement Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres treated 	 Treatments consistent with LSRA guidelines for FMZs and late-successional habitat enhancement Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres treated 	 Treatments consistent with LSRA guidelines for FMZs and late-successional habitat enhancement Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres treated 	 Treatments consistent with LSRA guidelines for FMZs and late-successional habitat enhancement Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with exemption for acres treated 	Treatments consistent with LSRA guidelines for FMZs and late-successional habitat enhancement	 Treatments consistent with LSRA guidelines for FMZs and late-successional habitat enhancement Consistent with NFP, RMP, and LSRA with REO exemption for acres treated





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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